

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 16-18 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-15 are presently rejected.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 9-21164.

In the Examiner's response to Applicants' previously filed Amendment, the Examiner remarks that Idota has no fluid present at the deodorizing means 50 after the flushing of the urinal is finished. Thus, the Examiner considers Idota to satisfy the limitation: "deodorizing means which is entirely located underneath the inlet and above said overflow edge in **an essentially dry area** of the odor trap" (emphasis added).

Clearly, however, the deodorizing means in Applicants' invention is not located in an area which is repeatedly exposed to fluid as in Idota. Applicants respectfully dissent with the Examiner's analysis that an area which is repeatedly exposed to fluid can constitute "an essentially dry area". However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants amend claim 1 to clarify that the dry area is dry during any flushing operations of the urinal.

As discussed in the pending application, the deodorizing insert is not exposed to a flow of liquid and can therefore be preserved for a significantly longer time than the conventional art (specification at page 1). The fact that the deodorizing means is located in an area which is dry during flushing is apparent from the drawing figures and the specification at pages 2-5 which describe the flow of water and the air circulation.

In view of the foregoing, Idota clearly fails to disclose the invention according to claim 1.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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